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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/695,293	10/27/2003	David C. McClure	03-C-009	3950
7590 07/18/2005				
Lisa K. Jorgenson, Esq. STMicroelectronics, Inc. 1310 Electronics Drive Carrollton, TX 75006-5039			EXAMINER TRA, ANH QUAN	
			ART UNIT 2816	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/695,293

Applicant(s)

MCCLURE, DAVID C.

Examiner

Quan Tra

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-11, 15-24, 27, 30 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-11, 15-24, 27, 30 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the amendment filed 05/31/05. A new ground of rejection is introduced as necessitated by amendment.

Claims objection

Claims 15-18 depend on claim 12 which has been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 15-17, 19-24, 27, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mori et al. (USP 5442277).

As to claim 1, Mori et al. discloses in figure 1 a system, comprising: a circuit (1) receiving an enable signal (ext/RAS), the circuit enabled for an operation when the enable signal is in a first state and disabled for that operation when the enable signal is in a second state; and a regulator circuit (40, 44) also receiving the enable signal and operable to selectively provide a current to the circuit at a first current value when the enable signal is in the first state and at a second current value when the enable signal is in the second state; and a delay circuit (30) coupled to delay application of the enable signal to the regulator circuits but not the circuit, so that the circuit is enabled/disabled for the operation prior to the response of the regulator circuit in providing the first/second current values, respectively.

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As to claim 2, figure 1 shows that the regulator circuit comprises a plurality of current sources (428 and 407).

As to claim 3, figure 1 shows that at least one (428) of the plurality of current sources is selectively activated by the enable signal.

As to claim 6, figure 1 shows that the delay circuit is operable to delay the activation of the at least one of the plurality of current sources relative to the enable signal being in the first state.

As to claim 8, figure 1 shows that the delay circuit delays one of a rising edge and a falling edge of the enable signal by an amount that is greater than a delay of the other of the rising edge and the falling edge of the enable signal.

As to claim 9, figure 1 shows that the circuit (1) includes a memory device.

As to claim 10, figure 1 shows that the memory device and the regulator circuit both receive the enable signal, the current value provided by the regulator circuit being based upon a value of the enable signal such that the memory device is enabled for normal operation and receives the first current value when the enable signal is in the first state and the memory device is disabled from normal operation and receives the second current value when the enable signal is in the second state.

Insofar as understood, claims 11, 15-17, 19-24, 27, 30 and 32 recites similar limitations of claims above. Therefore, they are rejected for the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4, 5 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (USP 5442277) in view of Ooishi (USP 6424585) and Huber (US 2004/0160840).

As to claim 3, Mori et al.'s fails to shows the detail of the voltage regulator. However, Ooishi et al.'s figure 93 shows a method that uses single comparator 2330 with plurality of selectable current sources (2460a-2460c) to replace plurality of comparators (such as shown figure 75) in a voltage regulator (2330 and 2320) for the purpose of saving parts. Further, Huber's figure 3 shows a voltage regulator having a single comparator (78) with one constant current source (82) and one selectable current source. The Huber's comparator provide the same function as Ooishi's comparator, but has less parts (less than one switch or fuse). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use Ooishi's voltage regulator with Huber's comparator circuit for Mori et al.'s voltage regulator for the purpose of saving cost. Thus, the modified Mori et al.'s figure 1 further shows that the plurality of current sources (Huber's 85, 82) form mirror branches of a current mirror (Huber's figure 5).

As to claims 5 and 18, the modified Mori's figure 1 shows that the at least one of the plurality of current sources comprises a first transistor (Huber's 85) and a second transistor (Huber's 84) connected in series to the first transistor, wherein a control terminal of the first transistor is coupled to a control terminal of a transistor (transistor in figure 5) in a reference leg of the current mirror and a control terminal of the second transistor is coupled to the enable signal.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

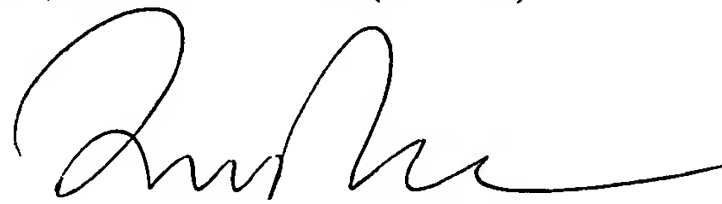
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quan Tra whose telephone number is 571-272-1755. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Quan Tra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

QUAN TRA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2816

July 11, 2005